



MISS CAROLINE RANDALL

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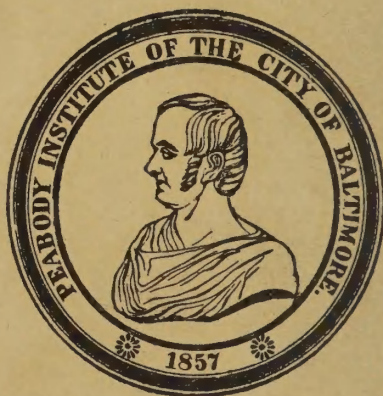




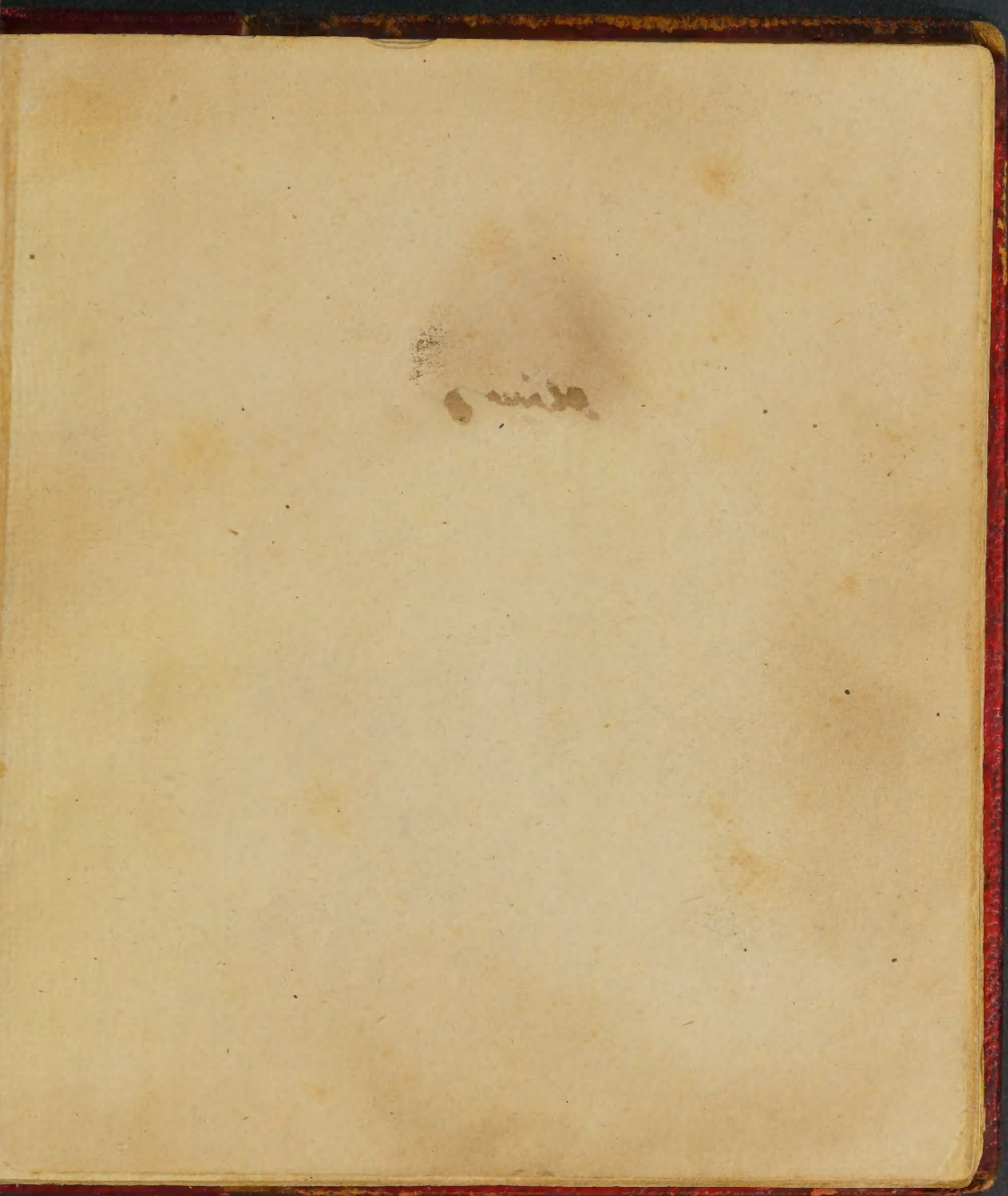


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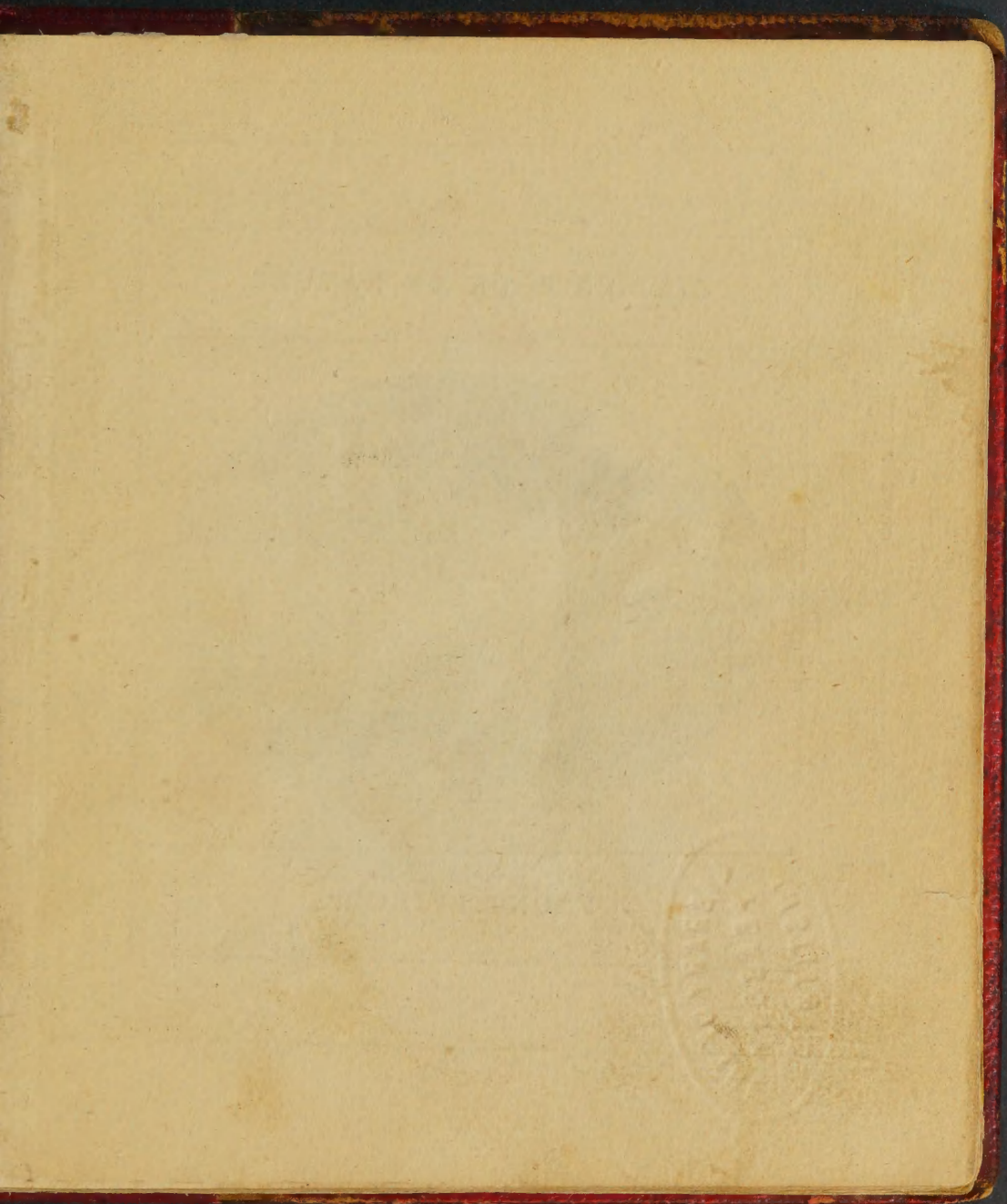
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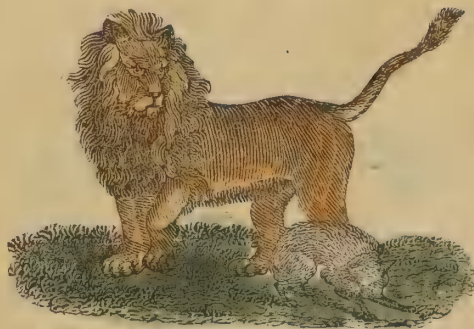


CHILD'S BOOK OF NATURE.



FRONTISPIECE.

THE
CHILD'S BOOK OF NATURE;
BEING
FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE
NATURAL HISTORY OF QUADRUPEDS AND BIRDS.



Carter, Hendee & Co. ✓

BOSTON:
CARTER, HENDEE, AND BABCOCK.

145261

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, *to wit:*

District Clerk's Office.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the twenty-seventh day of April, A. D. 1830, in the fifty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America, CARTER, ANDREWS, & CO., of the said district, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, *to wit:*

“The Child's Book of Nature; being Figures and Descriptions illustrative of the Natural History of Beasts, Birds, Insects, Fishes, &c.”

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled “An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;” and also to an Act entitled “An Act supplementary to an Act entitled An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned; and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints.”

JNO. W. DAVIS, { *Clerk of the District of
Massachusetts.*

The Child's Book of Nature has heretofore been published in detached numbers, in which form it has been so acceptable that large editions have been called for. The whole work comprises twelve numbers, viz: four of Quadrupeds, three of Birds, two of Fishes, and three of Insects. This volume contains the seven first, and will be followed by another to include the five last numbers. It is thought that many who wish to possess all the numbers will prefer them in this combined form.

P R E F A C E .

THIS little volume is designed as an introduction to the study of that branch of Natural History which relates to Animals, and which is termed Zoology. It is divided into two parts: the first relating to Quadrupeds, or four-footed animals, and the second to Birds, or the feathered tribe.

The study of the Natural History of animals is universally admitted to be of great value and importance to children, as it tends to elevate their minds, by affording a great deal of interesting and useful knowledge, and creating in them a love for that Power which has so eminently displayed his wisdom and goodness in the formation and endowments of every inhabitant of the globe, from man down to the meanest animal.

Children very early become interested in pictures, especially representations of animals, and are prone to desire explanations of them. In this volume the design has been to accompany the

pictures with descriptions so simply written as to be easily understood by very young children, and such as are calculated to make a good and lasting impression upon their minds, and to implant in them a relish for a kind of knowledge which will neither corrupt their minds nor vitiate their tastes.

A book like this, therefore, will be among the best for the first reading lessons of children ; for while, as a source of amusement, it conveys to their little minds a correct idea of the forms of the numerous animals of the earth it will as they gradually learn to read and comprehend its meaning, furnish them with a description of the principal qualities of the different animals, and prepare them for a more extended inquiry into the structure and functions of animated beings. This inquiry cannot fail to inspire the mind with salutary feelings, and, by giving a just idea of the Divinity, instil a respect for his wonderful power and goodness.

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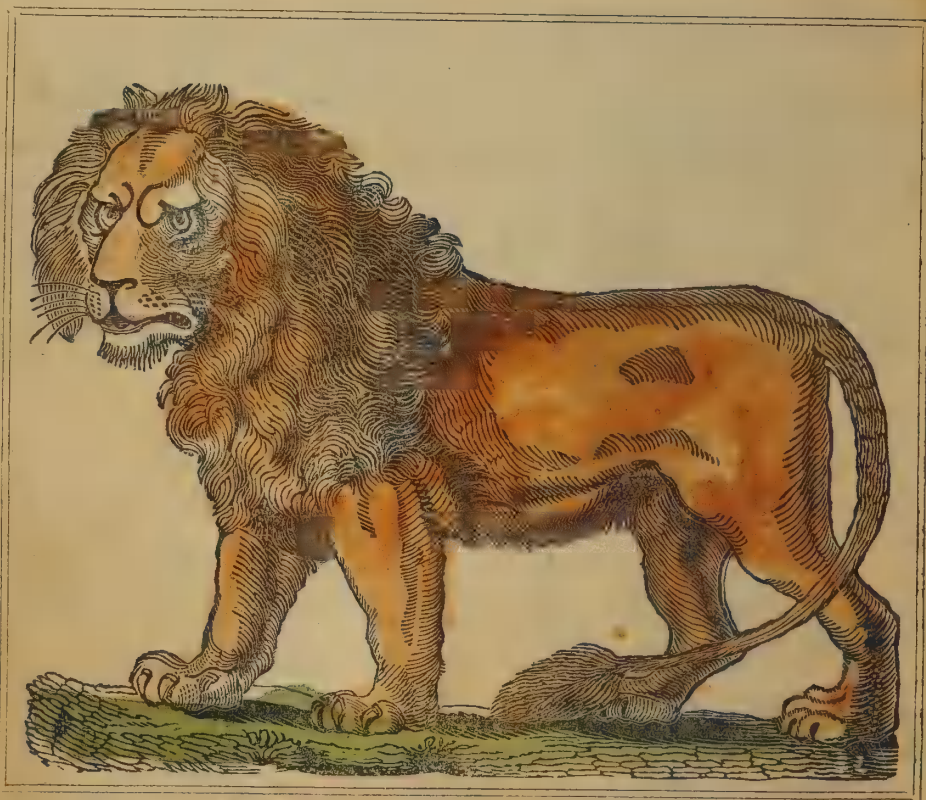
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PART I.

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QUADRUPEDS.



THE LION.

THE LION.

THE Lion is called the King of Beasts, because he is so strong and courageous that he masters all the other animals. The Elephant, the Rhinoceros, the Tiger, and the Hippopotamus, are the only creatures that dare to fight with him. He is so strong that he can break a horse's back with one stroke of his paw, and he roars so loud that when he is heard a great way off it sounds like thunder. His tongue is covered with prickles as hard as a cat's claws, and his neck is covered with a long shaggy mane. The Lion lives in the forests, and catches and kills and eats Deers, Buffaloes, and other animals. He sits down and watches these animals when they are coming in his way, and when they get near enough he springs upon them and tears them to pieces. If he does not seize the animal the first time he springs, he does not try again.



THE TIGER.

THE TIGER.

THE Tiger is larger than the Lion, and is called the handsomest of all the wild beasts. He is also more ferocious than the Lion, and will sometimes kill other animals when he does not want to eat them, merely for the pleasure of killing them. He is so strong that he can carry off a horse very easy. He catches other animals in the same way as the Lion, by hiding, and springing upon them. The Lion and Tiger will fight when they meet; and sometimes they hurt each other so much that they both die of their wounds. The Tigers which we sometimes see in cages, carried about to show, are caught when they are very young. The people of Asia, the country where Tigers live, find the little ones (or cubs, as they are called) when the old Tigers are away, and take them and carry them off. The Indians sometimes eat the flesh of the Tiger.



THE LEOPARD.

THE LEOPARD.

THE Leopard is a very handsome creature, but is very ferocious, and kills men, and beasts, and all that come in his way. The flesh of the Leopard is very white, and looks like veal; the negroes in Africa, the country where Leopards live, catch them and eat them. The way they catch them is to make a great hole in the ground, and cover over the top with sticks and bushes; the Leopards fall into these holes, and the negroes kill them before they can get out. Leopards kill and eat Antelopes, Monkeys, and sometimes Sheep; and when they cannot find enough to eat in the woods, they go in great flocks, and kill cattle which are feeding in the pastures. The skin of the Leopard is yellow and covered with black spots which are shaped like the print of the animal's foot on the sand. The negro women who live where there are Leopards make beads of their teeth.



THE LYNX.

THE LYNX.

THE Lynx lives in the woods, where he climbs high trees, and hides among the branches, and watches for Squirrels, Rabbits, Deer, and other creatures, which he jumps down upon when he sees them, tears a hole in their throats, and sucks their blood till they die. He is very fond of blood, and kills a great many animals to satisfy his thirst. Sometimes he will kill Sheep. He has very sharp eyes, and can see a great ways off. His ears stand up very straight on his head, and on the tip ends of them there are a few long black hairs. The skin of the Lynx is used to make muffs of. The Lynx is very much afraid of men, and is easily killed. The way the men kill them is to strike them a hard blow on the back with a stick. They do not go very near houses, except when they cannot find animals in the woods to kill.



THE HYENA.

THE HYENA.

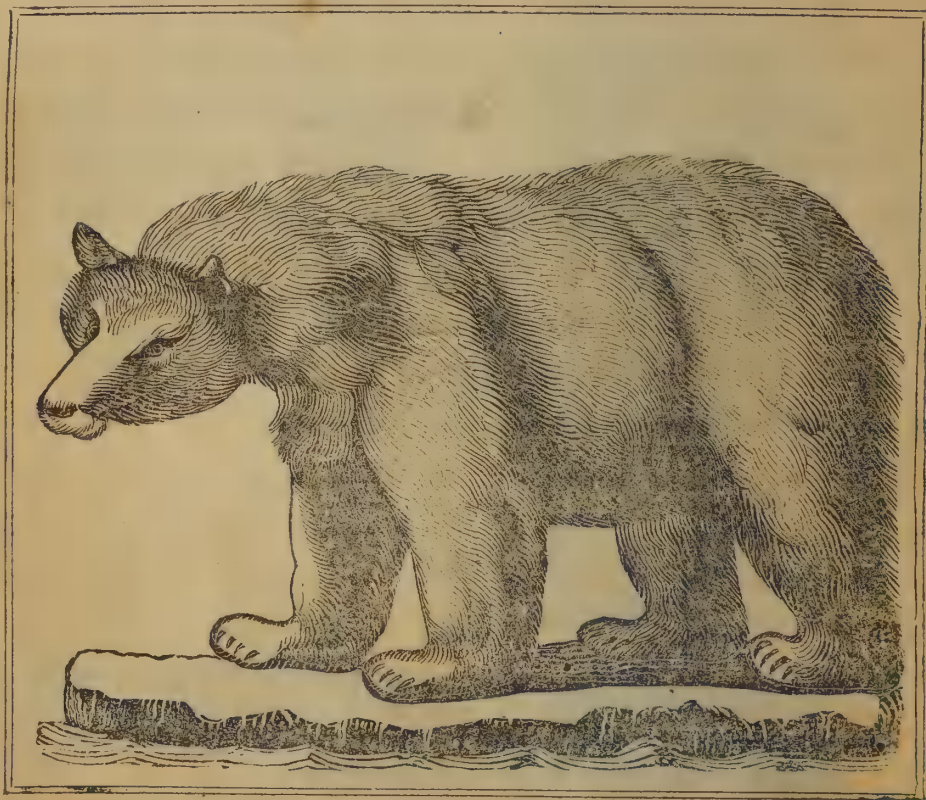
THE Hyena is about as large as a Wolf, but is a more ugly, fierce, and savage creature. He is most all the time growling, and seems to be always in a great rage. He makes a dreadful noise when he howls. The Hyena is a very strong animal, and will kill men, and cattle, and sheep, and any thing that comes in his way. He will also break open graves, and eat up the dead bodies which are buried in them. He is so furious and daring that he will attack animals a great deal larger than himself, and often kill them or drive them off. He is so ferocious that he can never be tamed, but will always keep growling and biting. When the Hyena is eating, his eyes glisten like two balls of fire; the bristles on his back stand up straight, and he grins and shows his large teeth, which give him a very frightful appearance.



THE WOLF.

THE WOLF.

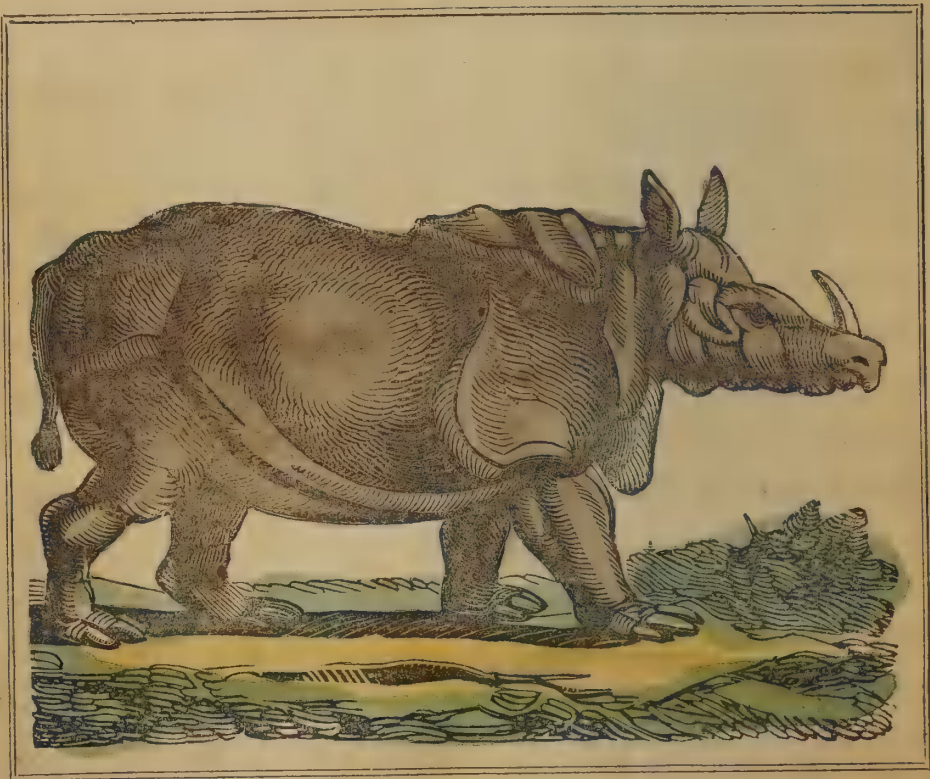
WOLVES live in almost all countries, and sometimes do a great deal of mischief by killing Sheep. They are very strong, and can easily carry off a Sheep so fast that men cannot overtake them. They live in the woods, in holes, and come out in the night to catch Sheep. When they are very hungry they will kill a number of Sheep out of a flock. Wolves are very troublesome indeed when they get into a neighbourhood where there are many Sheep, and they are so shy that people have to try very hard to catch them. In the year 1829, there was a Wolf caught in Sandwich, in the State of Massachusetts, which had been in the woods about there for two or three years, and had killed more than a thousand Sheep. When the Wolf catches a Sheep, he tears its throat and sucks out its blood. He is so strong that he can carry off an animal larger than himself.



THE WHITE BEAR.

THE WHITE BEAR.

THE White Bear, or Greenland Bear, as it is sometimes called, is the largest kind of Bear. It lives near the sea-shore, and crawls upon cakes of ice, and floats off a good ways from land to get fish, and seals, and dead whales; and it will also swim to boats, and catch the sailors which are in them, and kill them, and tear them in pieces, and eat them. In Greenland it is very cold, but the White Bears do not mind the cold, and live among the ice and snow all the time. Their hair is very long and shaggy, and on each of their feet they have five sharp claws. Though they are called White Bears they are not exactly white, but a kind of yellowish white colour. There was a White Bear brought to Boston for a show, and when his keeper told him to show how to break ice, he would rise on his hind legs, and stamp with his fore feet very hard on the bottom of his cage.



THE RHINOCEROS.

THE RHINOCEROS.

THE Rhinoceros is a very homely looking and ugly shaped creature ; but he is very harmless, and will not hurt any body without he is first attacked. His skin is very hard and thick, and has no hair on it ; and it is so loose that in some places it folds over. He has a horn on the top of his nose, with which he fights when he is provoked or attacked by any other beast. The Rhinoceros is shaped very much like a Hog, and is almost as large as an Elephant. He lives in the woods, in wet, marshy places, and is very fond of wallowing in the mire like a Hog ; he eats grass, and small twigs of trees and bushes ; he also eats grain and the sugar-cane ; and when he is caught and tamed, he is fed upon rice and sugar mixed together. The Rhinoceros is not very often caught, but one was brought to Boston in the spring of the year 1830, and exhibited.



THE BUFFALO.

THE BUFFALO.

THE Buffalo looks a great deal like an ox, but is much larger, and his horns are of a different shape. The Buffaloes, when they are wild, keep in large herds, and they are very fond of swimming in the water. They will dive down under water, and pull up with their horns the weeds and grass at the bottom. They run wild in the woods in Africa and Asia, but in Italy the people tame them and use them for ploughing and drawing carts, the same as we use oxen. They also make butter and cheese of their milk, and eat their flesh. Leather is made of their skins, and combs of their horns. Two Buffaloes yoked together can pull more than four strong horses. There is an animal in America which is often called the Buffalo, but the proper name of it is Bison. It does not look like this Buffalo, but has long shaggy hair on its head and shoulders, and is not so large.



THE ZEBRA.

THE ZEBRA.

THE Zebra is very handsome, and is sometimes called the Wild Horse. He looks like a Horse, but has ears a great deal longer. His skin is very smooth and shiny, and is striped with black. They live in Africa, and feed in the pastures, a great many of them together: but they are so wild that they will not let any body come near them. They can run very fast; much faster than a Horse. Zebras have been caught sometimes, but they cannot very easily be tamed. They make a curious noise, which sounds like a horn. They do not live any where but in Africa. Perhaps one of these days they will be caught, and tamed, and used the same as Horses. The stripes on the Zebra's body are very regular, and look like ribbon; his whole body is covered with these beautiful stripes, and he looks as if he was painted.



THE LAMA.

THE LAMA .

THE Lama looks like a Camel : but has no hunch on its back. It lives in Peru and Chili, in South-America, and is sometimes called the South-American Camel. The people who live in Peru and Chili use the Lama to ride upon and to carry loads. They will travel four or five days without resting, and then they will rest for a whole day ; and their drivers cannot make them go along, till they have rested enough. Sometimes, when their drivers have tried to force them along they have killed themselves by striking their heads against the ground. In South-America, where the Lamas are, they are used to carry loads over the mountains. They can climb the mountains with great loads upon their backs, and go over very steep and dangerous places where men dare not venture. The wool of the Lama is fine, and is used to make clothes of.



THE JAGUAR.

THE JAGUAR.

THIS animal is sometimes called the American Tiger, because he looks like a Tiger, and lives in South-America. He is larger and stronger than the Leopard. He is a fierce creature, like the Leopard, but he is cowardly and afraid of men, and will run away from them. He keeps in the thick woods and swamps, and near large rivers, and kills and feeds upon small animals. Sometimes, when he is very hungry, he will kill horses and cows. He swims very easy and fast. He also climbs very high trees. A traveller saw the print of a Jaguar's feet on the top of a tree sixty feet high. The Jaguar has a very curious way of catching fish. He stands near the shore and spits in the water: this tolls up the fish, who think it something to eat, and when they get near him he knocks them out of the water on to the land with his paw.



THE ELK.

THE ELK.

THE Elk is larger than a Horse. Its horns are very large and heavy; sometimes they weigh sixty pounds. Its neck is so short, and its legs so long, that it cannot get its head down to the ground to eat grass; and so it eats the leaves and branches of plants and trees. It can step with its long legs over a fence as high as a man's head. The Elk never gallops, but trots very quick. He is very gentle, and easily tamed; and when he is tamed is very fond of his keeper. In some places Elks are made to work like oxen. Every year its horns come off, and new ones grow out. Elks are sometimes called Moose Deers; they like to live in cold countries, and in winter time when there are no leaves, they eat the bark of trees. Their skins are tanned and make very nice leather, and their horns are used to make handles to knives and forks.



THE NYL-GHAU.

THE NYL-GHAU.

NYL-GHAU is the name by which this animal is called by the people of Persia. Nyl-Ghau means a Blue Cow. It is not so large as our Cows, and does not look much like them. When the Nyl-Ghau or Blue Cow is wild in the woods, they are very vicious and quarrelsome. They have a curious way of fighting. When they are a good ways off of each other they fall down on their fore knees, and when they come close together they dart against each other so hard that they sometimes break their horns. They are tamed, and become very gentle and kind. They are hunted in the woods the same as Deer, by the people of Persia. The hind legs of the Nyl-Ghau are so much shorter than their fore legs, that they cannot run very fast. The Nyl-Ghau is sometimes called the white-footed Antelope.



THE STAG.

THE STAG .

THE Stag is a very beautiful animal, and is very peaceable and good natured. They have long horns, which come off every year, and new ones grow out. The horns of the Stag are used to make handles of knives and forks, and their flesh is very good to eat, and is called venison. The Stags sometimes fight with each other ; in fighting they use their horns, and they stamp very hard with their fore feet. They eat grass, and young branches and leaves of trees. They run very swiftly, faster than a race horse, and can hear and smell a great ways off. The Stag is sometimes called the Red Deer, because he is of a reddish colour, and looks like the deer. The horns of the Stag do not grow out large till he is four or five years old ; and then they spread out and are very handsome. The Stags live sometimes forty or fifty years.



THE REINDEER.

THE REINDEER.

THIS is a very useful animal. He is used by the people in Lapland and Greenland, (which are very cold countries, and where there is a great deal of snow,) to drag a kind of sleigh, which they call a sledge; and they travel a great deal faster than a horse. They also give milk like Cows, and the people make butter and cheese of it. When they are dead, their skins are used to make clothing of for the men, and their flesh is very good to eat. Spoons are made of the bones, and glue of the horns of the Reindeer. The sledge which they draw is shaped something like a boat, and the people tie themselves in so as not to fall out, for the Reindeers travel very fast; they often travel more than a hundred miles in a day. In summer the Reindeers feed upon different kinds of plants, and when the ground is covered with snow they eat moss which grows on pine trees.



THE ANTELOPE.

THE ANTELOPE.

THIS very pretty animal can run faster than a race-horse. Their legs are long and very small, and so tender and brittle that they are broken very easily. The Antelopes live in warm countries, and run about on the mountains, and jump from one rock to another so fast that they look as if they were flying. They keep in large flocks, and are caught and killed by Lions, and Tigers, and other beasts. The people of Persia, a country where there are many Antelopes, have a curious way of catching them. They have dogs and hawks which they learn to chase the Antelopes, and when they see a flock of them, they let the hawks fly and the dogs run after them. The hawks fly down on their heads and sometimes strike so hard a blow as to knock them down. The dogs then run up and catch them, and keep them from running till the men get near enough to shoot them.



THE MONKEY.

THE MONKEY.

THERE are a good many different kinds of Monkeys: they are very mischievous and cunning creatures, and will try to imitate what they see men and boys do. They live in the woods, and will jump about very quick from one tree to another. They are very harmless and good-natured creatures, only when they are plagued or abused, when they will scream, sometimes more than a hundred of them together, so that a person would be frightened to hear them. They are very fond of mischief, and will plague all other animals which come near them so as to drive them away; so where they are they have all the woods to themselves. There is a kind of Monkey, called the Ourang-Outang, which is almost as large as a man, and which looks a good deal like a man. The Ourang-Outang is sometimes called the Wild Man of the Woods.



THE RACCOON.

THE RACCOON.

THE Raccoon lives in the hollows of trees in the woods, and eats fruit ; he loves oysters and can open the shells very quick. He holds his food in his paws when he is eating it. He can very easily be tamed, and then he is a very good-natured animal, and very fond of play : but he is very mischievous, and does not like to be idle. His fur is used to make hats of, and his skin is good to make gloves and shoes. There are a great many Raccoons in this country, and in the West-Indies ; they are very fond of sweet things, and they do a great deal of mischief among the sugar plantations in the West-Indies, and sometimes there are so many that it is difficult to get rid of them. Sugar plantations are farms where the sugar-cane grows, and is made into sugar. The claws of the Raccoon are so sharp that he can climb very easily the highest trees.



THE ARMADILLO.

THE ARMADILLO.

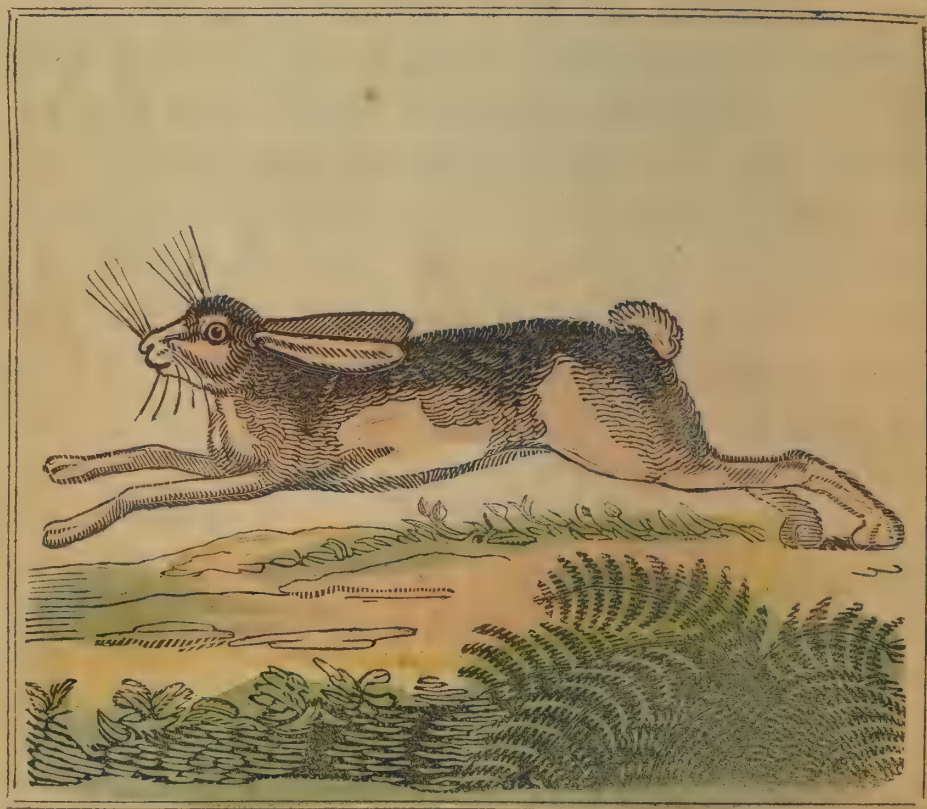
THE body of the Armadillo is covered with a shell, which is in different pieces, one folded over the other, like the tail of a Lobster. They are harmless creatures; but if they get into a garden they will eat up potatoes, and squashes, and melons, and do a great deal of mischief. They can walk fast, but cannot run, nor climb trees; and if they are attacked they draw their heads under their shells, just like a Turtle, or get into their holes as quick as they can. If people dig after it, the Armadillo will keep out of their way by digging at the same time, and throwing the dirt behind them. They dig their holes very deep in the ground. The flesh of the Armadillo is eaten by the people of South-America, and they think it is very nice indeed. On their feet the Armadillos have four very strong claws, with which they dig their holes.



THE ANT-EATER.

THE ANT-EATER.

THIS is a very curious animal, and is called Ant-Eater because he lives upon Ants. The way he catches the Ants is to go to the Ant-hills and run out his tongue, which is most as long as a man's arm, and covered all over with a kind of sticky juice. The Ants run upon his tongue, and when they get on it they stick so that they cannot get off, and then he pulls in his tongue and swallows them. He keeps hid in his hole a great deal of the time, and only comes out when he is hungry, to catch Ants. His tongue is so long that he has to double it up to put it in his mouth. They have no teeth, and their bodies are covered with very long and coarse hair. The tail of the Ant-Eater is long and bushy, and is sometimes curled up on his back like the tail of a Squirrel. Their noses or snouts are almost as long as their bodies.



THE HARE.

THE HARE.

THIS pretty little creature is very timid, that is, it is very much afraid of other animals, and of men. Hares have a great many enemies, for other animals will destroy them when they get a chance, and the men hunt them for amusement. They can run very fast indeed, and it is not easy to catch them. They can run up hill faster than any other animals, because their hind legs are so much longer than their others. They eat in the night, because they are afraid to in the day time. They live upon grass, roots, leaves, and corn; and they are very fond of tender plants, such as pinks and parsley. In the winter time they eat the bark of trees. There are Hares in all parts of the world. Those in this country are smaller than some others. The Hare can hear a great ways off, and he is so much afraid of being seen and caught that he always sleeps with his eyes open.



THE BEAVER.

THE BEAVER.

THE Beaver lives in the western part of this country, and is a very curious and sagacious animal. It builds its house of sticks, and mud, and stones, and makes a regular roof to it. It cuts down trees with its teeth to get timber to build its house. Their tails are broad and flat, and covered with scales, and they use them for a rudder to guide them when they are swimming in the water. The toes on the Beaver's hind feet are fastened together by a web, the same as the toes of a Goose. Their fur is very nice and beautiful, and is used to make the best hats. The Beavers work only in the night when they are building their houses. The beavers do not like to live alone, and they keep a great many of them together in one house: sometimes there will be two hundred of them in company. Their houses have many different rooms in them.



THE FOX.

THE FOX.

THE Fox is called a very cunning animal. He finds out birds' nests, and kills and eats the young birds, and the old ones too, if he can catch them. He catches young rabbits, too, and eats them; and when he is very hungry and can get nothing better, he will eat rats, mice, toads, snakes, and insects. He has a very pretty bushy tail, and is something like a wolf, but not so large. The Foxes make holes in the ground, where they live. They make these holes near the woods, and if they can, near a house, so that they can run out and steal ducks and geese. In the winter time, when the Fox lies down he folds his tail round his head to keep his nose warm. Foxes will sometimes get into a farm-yard in the night, and kill a great many geese, or ducks, or hens, and carry them off, one at a time, and bury them up in the ground, so that he can have them to eat when

he is hungry. Foxes will also attack wasps and wild bees. When he first goes to their nest, the wasps or bees will fly out and get on him and sting him : he then rolls in the dirt and gets them off, and attacks them again ; and at last drives them all away from the nest, and eats up the honey.



PART II.

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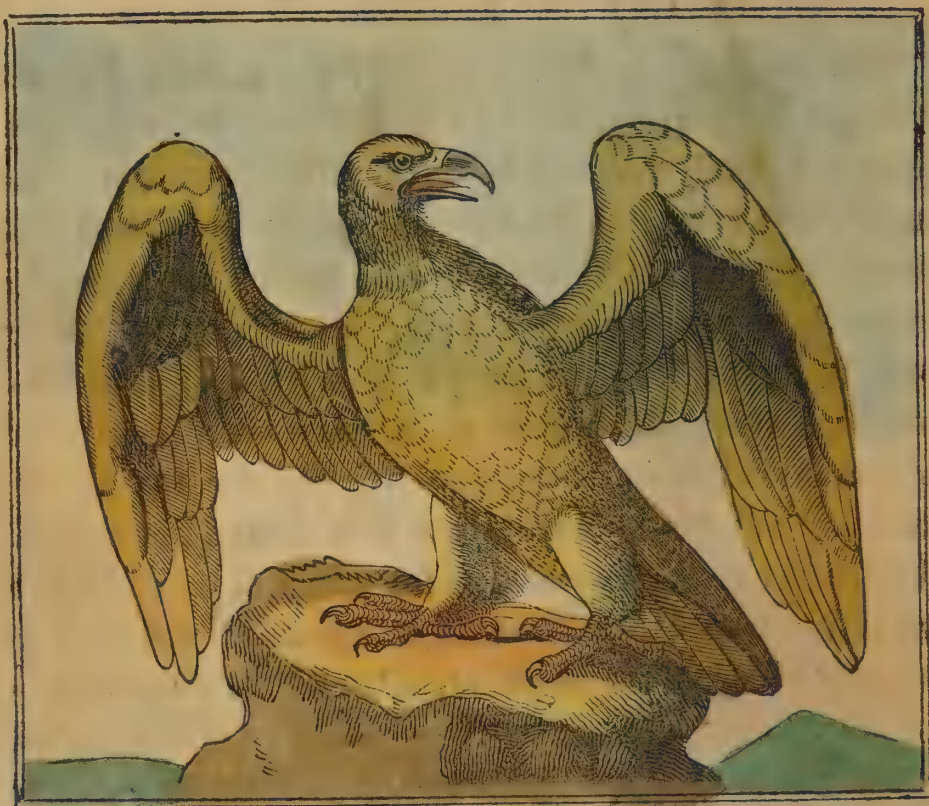
B I R D S .



THE OSTRICH.

THE OSTRICH.

WE shall begin our account of the birds with the Ostrich, because it seems to be partly a beast and partly a bird, forming a connecting link between them. It eats grass like beasts, and its feathers look like hair. The Ostrich is a very large animal, being sometimes taller than a man. It has a very long and slender neck, and long legs, with only two toes on each foot. It can run as fast as a race-horse, and never flies. The Ostriches live among the sandy and hot deserts of Arabia and Africa, and eat stones, and hair, and any thing they can get. They are seen in large flocks, and at a distance look like a regiment of soldiers on horseback. Ostriches are frequently carried about the country in caravans, as they are called, and almost all children have a chance to see them ; but they should be careful and not plague them, or they will get hurt.

**THE EAGLE.**

THE EAGLE.

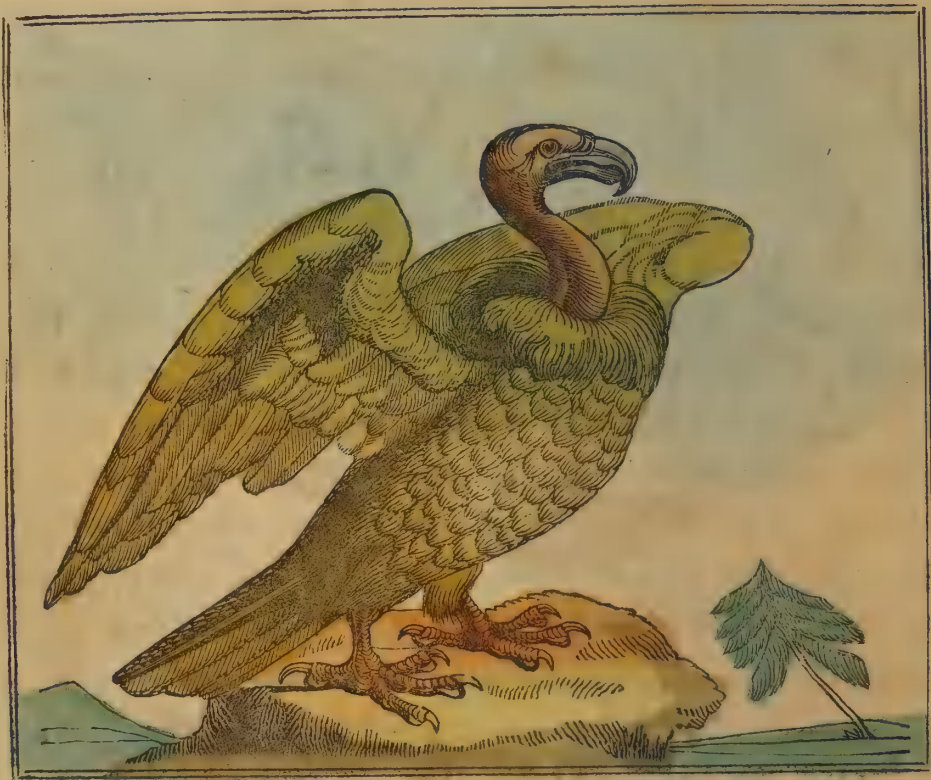
WE have said in the first number of the Child's Book of Nature, that the Lion is called the King of Beasts. The Eagle holds the same place among the Birds that the Lion does among Beasts. The Eagle is a very large bird, larger than a Turkey or Goose, and lives almost alone in the woods, because other birds are afraid of him. They build their nests very high, and so strong that one nest will last an Eagle all its life time ; and they live a great many years : some have been known to live an hundred years. They are so strong that they can kill dogs, and a man has been killed by a single flap of an Eagle's wing. Eagles live in all parts of the world ; some of them keep near the sea-shore and eat fish. They can see almost as well in the night as they can in the day time, and they sometimes seize and devour in the dark the animals they feed upon.



THE DODO.

THE DODO.

THE Dodo is, as it looks to be in the picture, a very clumsy and awkward bird. Its body is very large and almost round. Its wings are so small that it cannot fly, and its legs are so short and clumsy that it cannot run. The Dodo is sometimes called the Sloth of the feathered tribe, because, like the beast called the Sloth, it is very slow-motioned and lazy. Its bill is very large, and looks like two pointed spoons put together. When it opens its mouth it looks frightfully, as if it would almost swallow you up; and the feathers on its head, as you see, grow so close round the bill, (or beak as it is more properly called) that the bird looks very much as if it had on a wig or hood. The Dodos are so stupid and indolent that they will eat any thing which comes in their way, rather than take pains to go and look after good food. They live in the Isle of France.



THE VULTURE.

THE VULTURE.

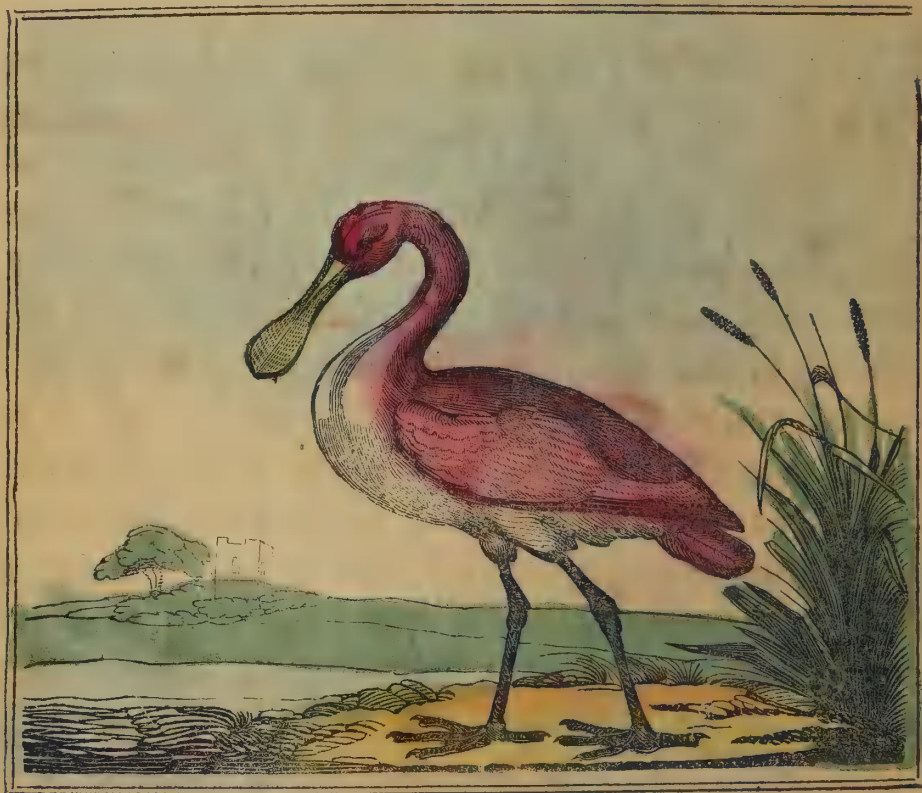
THE Vulture is a very large bird, and at a distance looks something like a Turkey. Vultures live in warm countries, and feed upon dead bodies of animals. They can smell these bodies a great way off. They eat Crocodile's eggs, too, and in South-America the people are very glad of them on this account, because they prevent the increase of that dreadful creature, the Crocodile. Crocodiles lay their eggs in the sand, and bury them up : sometimes they lay a hundred at a time. The Vultures watch them when they go to bury their eggs, and when they are away go and dig them up and eat them. The Vultures also kill rats and mice, which in some countries are very thick, and eat up the fruits of the ground. So, you see, the Vultures do some good. The Vultures build their nests on the tops of very high rocks, where people cannot get at them.



THE CRANE.

THE CRANE.

THE Crane is a very pretty bird, and is as tall as a boy 12 years old. It has long and handsome legs and neck, and the curled feathers that you see in the picture, on its back, grow out of the ends of its wings. These feathers the Cranes can straighten out if they please, but they almost always let them hang over and cover the tail. They live in Arabia and Egypt, countries where it is warmer than it is here; and go in great flocks to fields and marshes, and watery places, where they feed upon insects, and snakes, and sometimes fish. They fly, a great many of them together, from one country to another: and sometimes in the night they will fly down into a field of grain and tread it down as much as a whole regiment of soldiers would. Cranes do not fly very quick; and for fear of being seen and shot at, some of them keep watch while the others feed.



THE SPOONBILL.

THE SPOONBILL.

THIS is a very curious bird, and is about the size of a Goose. Its bill is large and long, and shaped, as the picture will show you, like a spoon. The Spoonbills, most of the time, keep about large rivers, and live upon small fish and reptiles. They will eat frogs and snakes, and even the grass and weeds which grow in the water. They build their nests sometimes in trees; but if they cannot find a tall tree they make nests in the bushes. They go from one country to another, to find warm weather, which is called migrating. The people at the Cape of Good Hope value the Spoonbills very much because they destroy so many toads, and frogs, and lizards, and serpents. Their bills are so shaped that these creatures cannot slip away from them very well, as they can from other birds which have small bills.



THE CASSOWARY.

THE CASSOWARY.

THE Cassowary is the next largest bird to the Ostrich. It has a very heavy body, and its wings are so short that it cannot fly at all. On the top of its head is a bone, covered with horn, which is yellow, and looks something like a soldier's cap. In the ends of its wings there are long prickly quills, which the Cassowary uses to fight with. They have very large bright yellow eyes, which look like a Lion's eyes, and their legs are almost as large as a man's. They can run very fast; so fast that a race-horse cannot catch them; and they will kick very hard when they are provoked. The Cassowary eats fruits and birds' eggs, and, like the Ostrich, it can swallow pieces of iron, broken bricks, glass, and stones. The feathers of the Cassowary, a little way off, look like coarse hair. Their eggs are as large as a hen's body.



THE FALCON.

SECRETARY FALCON.

THIS curious bird, when it stands with its head up, looks a little like a Crane, and is about as tall. On the back of its head there are some long, dark feathers, hanging down behind, which it can straighten when it pleases. The Secretary Falcons are sometimes called Serpent-Eaters, because they are very fond of catching snakes. You will see in the picture that the bird is trying to kill a snake. When they see a snake they run towards him with their wings spread out, so as to keep the snake from biting them; and when they get a chance they tread on him, and then catch him in their bill, and throw him up in the air till he is tired out, and then they kill him and eat him. Sometimes they strike the snakes with their wings and knock them down. They are so spry that when they once see a snake it cannot run fast enough to get out of their way.



THE MACCAW.

THE MACCAW.

THE Maccaw is a very handsome bird of the Parrot kind, and is about as big as a Hen, though its tail is a great deal longer. There are two kinds of Maccaws, the Red and Blue, and the Red and Yellow. The one in the picture is a Red and Yellow Maccaw. The colour of their feathers is very rich and handsome, and they are very mild and good-natured birds; but they are not so lively, and cannot learn to imitate sounds as well as some other Parrots can. The Maccaws live upon fruit, seeds, and nuts. They live to be very old when they are in the woods; but when they are caught and shut up in a cage, they must be taken very good care of and kept warm, or they cannot live. The native country of the Red and Yellow Maccaw is South-America. They are very easily tamed, and become very fond of the family in which they are kept.



THE CURASSOW.

THE CURASSOW.

THIS bird is almost as large as a Turkey, and in some countries is kept like Turkeys and Hens in the poultry yard. The Curassow has on its head a bunch of long curled feathers, forming a sort of crest, and for this reason it is called the Crested Curassow. At Guinea, in South-America, there are a great many Curassows in the woods, and travellers very often shoot them to eat. They keep together in large flocks, and are so tame that they are not much frightened when men go near them. Sometimes, when some of them have been shot out of a flock, the rest will not seem to be frightened, and will not fly away. They build their nests in the tallest trees of the forests where they live, and make them with stalks and leaves. The Curassows are very good to eat, and their flesh looks remarkably white and nice. They look like Turkeys, only they are much handsomer.



CALIFORNIAN QUAIL

THE CALIFORNIAN QUAIL.

QUAILS live in the thickets among the bushes, and build their nests upon the ground. The two birds in the picture are what are called Californian Quails. They look somewhat like the Quails about here, and which perhaps you have seen; but their tails are a great deal longer. They are quarrelsome birds, and though they always keep together in great flocks they fight a great deal. Five or six black feathers grow out of the top of their heads, which look like a feather in a soldier's cap. These birds are very plenty in the woods of California, which is in Mexico; and they are seen sometimes in companies of two or three hundred. In winter the Californian Quails, like all other Quails, migrate, that is, they go to some other place, where it is warmer. They take a great deal of pains to build their nests, and cover them over the top to keep out the rain.



THE CONDOR.

THE CONDOR.

CONDORS live in South-America, and are very large and strong birds ; larger than the Eagle, and so strong that they can catch and fly away with a sheep. The Condor has a very ugly shaped head, and on the top of it is a large comb, which almost covers up its eyes. Round the lower part of the Condor's neck is a ring of soft feathers, which looks like a lady's ruff. They keep on high rocks and mountains, and do not like to go where there are people. When they are very hungry, two of the Condors together will attack a Cow, and wound her with their bills and claws till she dies ; they will then eat so much that they cannot fly. The Indians who live in South-America watch the Condors when they are eating, and when they have eaten so much as to make them heavy and lazy, they catch them with a weapon which they call a lasso.



THE FLAMINGO.

THE FLAMINGO.

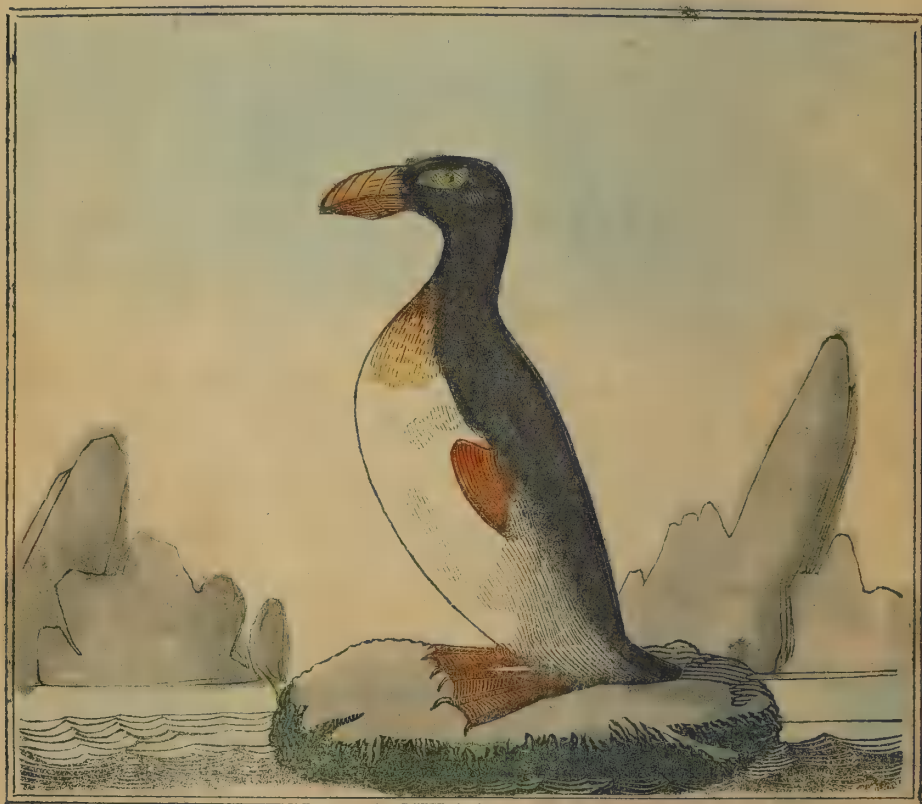
THE Red Flamingo has not a very large body ; not larger than a Goose ; but when it stands up it is taller than a man, because it has such long legs and neck. The Flamingos are of a very handsome red colour all over ; and when a great many of them are seen together, they look very much like a company of soldiers with red coats. They live upon fish, which they catch by plunging their heads into the rivers. They keep in large flocks, and, as you will remember we told you about the Crane, they are so shy that some of them will keep watch while the others are catching fish. The Flamingos build very curious nests ; they make them of mud, in the shape of a little hill, with a place in the top where they can lay their eggs. They do not curl their legs under their bodies as other birds do, but let them hang over the sides of the nest.



THE PELICAN.

THE PELICAN.

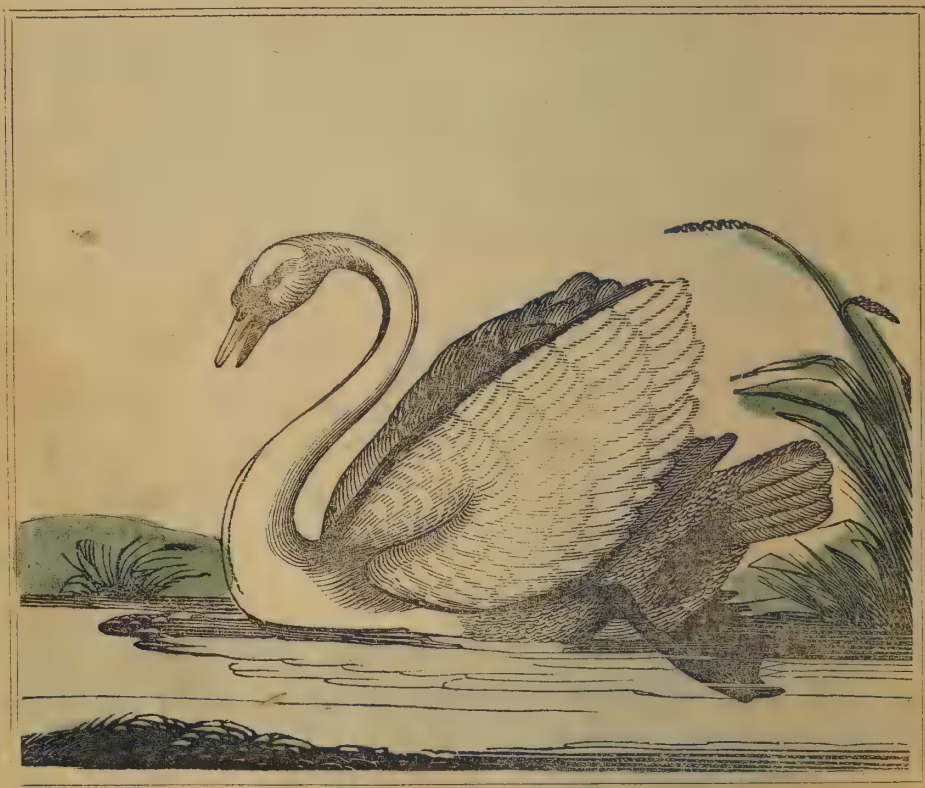
THIS is a very lazy and greedy bird. It has a large beak, and under it, as you see, a great bag. This bag is large enough to hold more than a pailful of water. The Pelicans always live near the water, and catch a great many fish. They fly about near the top of the water, and when they see a fish they fly down and catch it, and put it in their bag; when they have got a bag full they fly to the shore and eat them. They eat so much that they can hardly fly, and so they go to sleep, and sleep till they are hungry again. The Pelican is a very good natured bird, and can be very easily tamed. In some countries the people learn them to catch fish for them. In South-America and China the people train them so that they will fly out and catch a bag full of fish, and carry them to their masters. The Pelicans live a great many years.



THE PENGUIN.

THE PENGUIN.

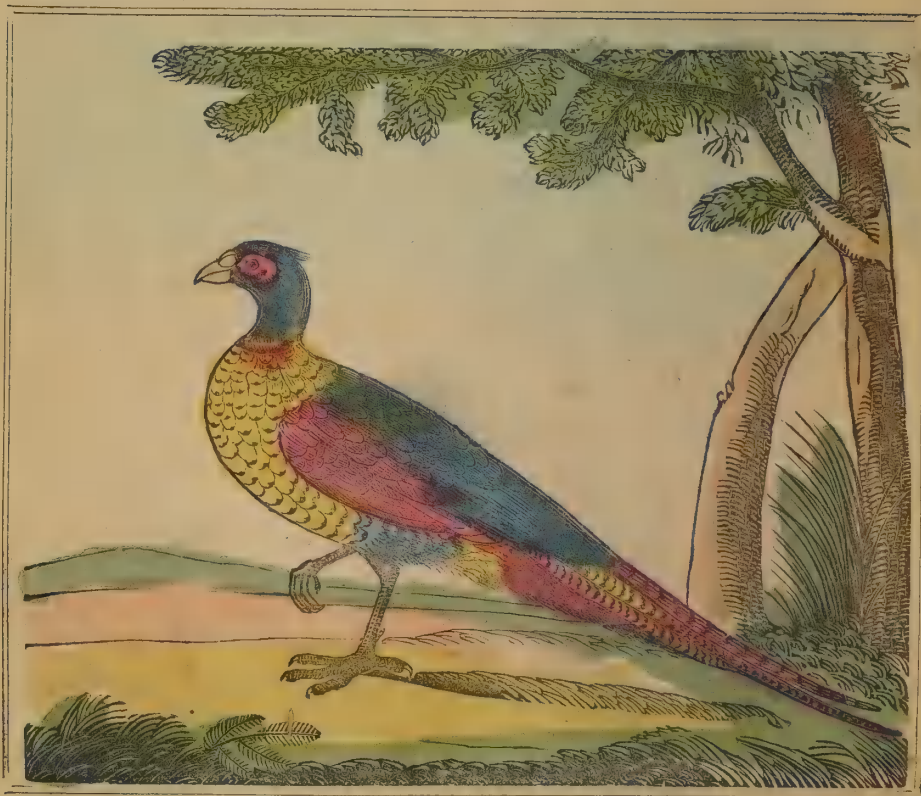
THIS bird is about as large as a Goose, and, like the Ostrich, it cannot fly, though it has wings. Its legs are so far behind that you see it has to stand upright like a man. It cannot run, because its legs are so short; but it can swim faster than any other bird. Its wings look like the fins of fishes, and it uses them to swim with. The Penguins keep together in great flocks, on islands and about the water, and live upon fish. When they are seen a great way off, in flocks, they look very much like a number of children dressed in black, with white aprons on. When the Penguins are on the land, it is very easy to catch them, because they can neither fly nor run. The people go up to them and knock them down with sticks. But in the water they will not let any body come near them. When they see folks trying to shoot them, they dive down and come up a great way off.



THE SWAN.

THE SWAN.

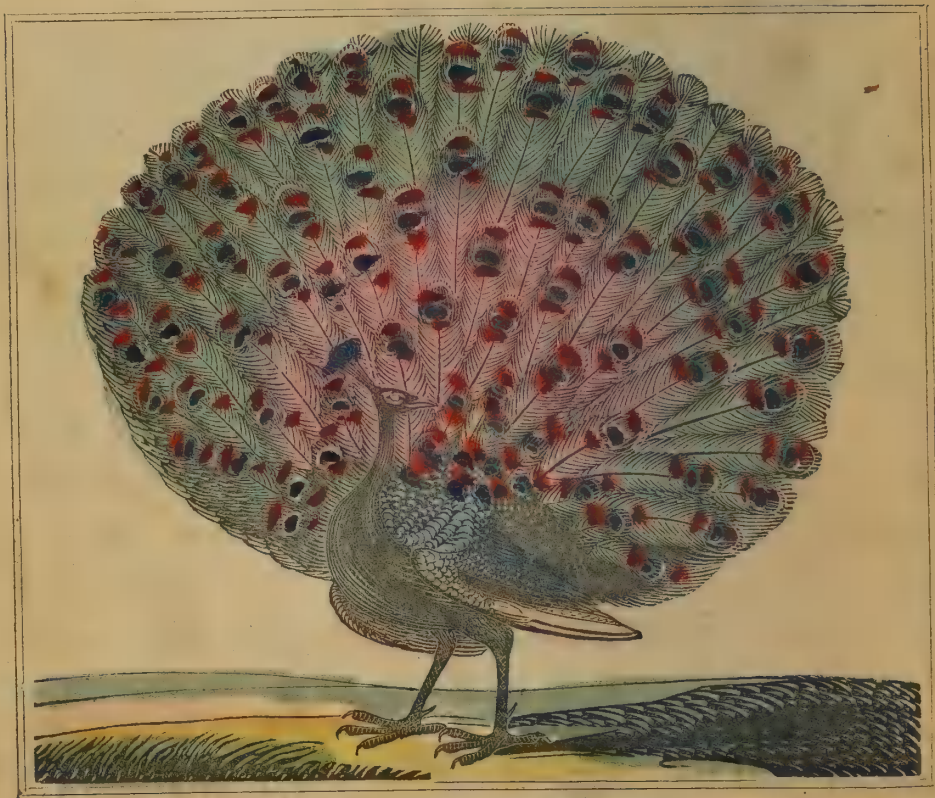
THE Swan, when it is swimming in the water, is a very beautiful bird ; its body just touches the water, and it carries its head up high, and swims along very easy and very gracefully. It can swim faster than a man can walk. The Swan does not look so pretty on the land as it does in the water, because its legs are short, and it walks along very slow and clumsily, like a Goose. The Swan looks like a Goose, but is a great deal larger and handsomer. They are white, all over, and are so strong that they can throw down boys fifteen or sixteen years old. They strike with their wings, and can break a man's leg with a single blow. Swans eat corn, bread, seeds, and roots and herbs, which grow about the water. They build their nests with sticks and grass, and one nest lasts a Swan a great many years : they live sometimes to be a hundred years old.



THE PHEASANT.

THE PHEASANT

THE Pheasant is a very beautiful bird, and some think it is the handsomest of all the birds. The colours of its feathers are very rich and bright, and its tail is very long and pretty. Pheasants do not like to be tamed, and will not be contented unless they can live in the woods and ramble about as they please. They are found in England but not in this country. Their wings are short, and they cannot fly a great way at a time. There are three or four different kinds of Pheasants ; but the Golden Pheasant, which lives in China, is the most elegant. The one in the picture is a Golden Pheasant. A Pheasant's tail is about as long as a man's arm. They are very cunning birds, and sometimes will make curious and ingenious contrivances to get out of the way when people are trying to shoot them or catch them.



THE PEACOCK.

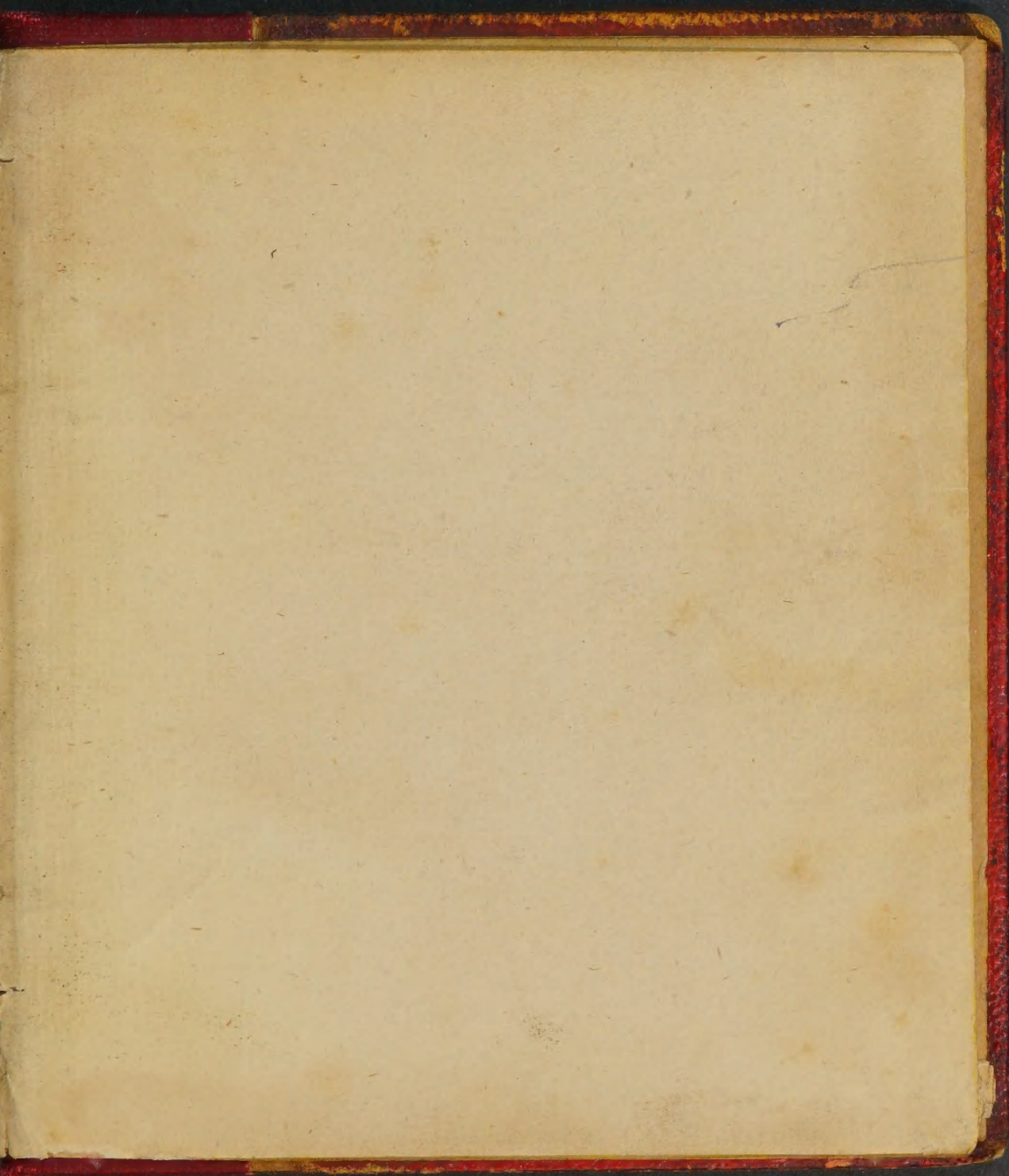
THE PEACOCK.

THIS is a beautiful bird, and has very rich coloured feathers, but is not so handsome as the Pheasant. Its tail or train is longer than its body. This train the Peacock can spread, as you see in the picture, and make it look very much like a fan. When the Peacock is pleased, and feels proud, he spreads his train and struts about like a soldier. We read in the Bible that King Solomon was so fond of Peacocks, that he used to send to Asia for them. Once people used to think so much of them that they would give a hundred dollars for a pair of them. When Alexander, a great king who lived many hundred years ago, was in India, a country where Peacocks are found wild, he was so much pleased with the looks of them that he threatened to punish any of his people who should hurt or kill them. But with all its beauty the Peacock is nothing but out-

M. M. Dean, M.D. died

side show. He is very greedy and ill-natured, and his voice, which is a kind of scream, is very unpleasant. He will get into gardens and eat up and destroy plants and seeds, and do a great deal of mischief. So, you see, that if you would be loved and respected, you must not depend entirely upon your dress and outside appearance; for though you may be very handsomely dressed and look very prettily, if you are not good you will not be happy or beloved.





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